



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
SEOUL BUREAU



MSK-6003
4 February 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Seoul Bureau - January 1986

I. GENERAL

It appears that travelers to and from Seoul soon will be able to "fly the friendly skies." United Airlines is in the process of taking over Pan Am's Pacific routes, which include flights to several U.S. cities through Tokyo. United had hoped to begin its new Pacific services on 1 February, but negotiations with Japanese and Korean authorities have not gone smoothly. Service to Tokyo is now scheduled to begin 11 February. Final details of the Seoul connection have not yet been resolved, and United flights to Seoul apparently cannot begin until 4 March at the earliest. United's vast network of flights within the United States is expected to lead to a major improvement in possible connections for U.S.-bound fliers, and should provide stiff competition for Northwest Orient, the only other U.S. carrier now serving Seoul.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. After a relatively slow period in November and December, editorial operations picked up steam early in January, and the Bureau remained busy the entire month. Kim Il-song in his annual New Year's address touched on several themes that quickly dominated DPRK media attention, particularly his assertion that the U.S.-ROK "Team Spirit-86" military exercises would pose a threat to the continuation of North-South talks. Kim also expressed hope that "summit" talks with the South could be held in 1986, a theme that appeared in DPRK media until the U.S.-ROK announcement on holding "Team Spirit." Another topic in Kim's address -- serious shortcomings in the DPRK economy, particularly in the mining and transportation sectors -- also has been widely reflected in Pyongyang radio reports.

2. On 18 January the U.S.-ROK side announced that "Team Spirit" will be held beginning 18 February. On the 28th Pyongyang radio carried a joint statement by heads of the DPRK delegations to the Red Cross, economic, and parliamentary talks announcing that all talks would be suspended until after the exercises, and when a "favorable atmosphere" for dialogue had been created. On the 23d a mass rally opposing "Team Spirit" was held in Pyongyang, during which Politburo member Kim Hwan denounced the maneuvers. In the following week similar rallies were held in the various provinces. There was significant Embassy, UNCMAC and military interest in how the DPRK unfolded its campaign against the exercise this year, compared with 1985. Some of the differences apparently were occasioned by the 19-23 February visit by Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze.

3. The Shevardnadze visit, the first to Pyongyang by a Soviet foreign minister, also attracted considerable local interest. An AG Trends piece on the visit was widely read by key Embassy officers, and Ambassador Walker called specific attention to it during the weekly Country Team meeting on the 31st.

4. In South Korean affairs, the main event of the month was a Cabinet reshuffle on the 7th that involved all high-level economic officials and the defense minister. Although the reshuffle had been expected for some time, there was high Embassy interest in the announcement, which the Bureau processed from Seoul radio, and in whether other officials including the foreign minister had been replaced. Another important development in the volatile world of ROK domestic politics was the defection of 12 members of the opposition NKDP and their creation of a "new conservative club." The new group seems to hope that it can gather enough momentum to become a full-fledged political party and present a slate of viable candidates in the national elections scheduled for 1988.

5. Reconfiguration of the editorial room is now nearly complete. The Bureau received a "lazy susan" revolving tray arrangement from Okinawa Bureau during the month, which provides improved access to editorial files and reference materials for editors and monitors. A second Extel printer has also been installed, enabling editors to print KCNA and YONHAP simultaneously in the editorial room. Previously, one cast was printed in Main Radio, leading to inevitable delays before editors saw the copy.

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B. Communications

The Bureau's primary communications circuit has suffered a lengthy series of night-time outages for the past several weeks. [redacted] satellite antenna doesn't track the antenna properly. It must be reset frequently, so the communications circuit often goes out after [redacted] operators have gone home for the night. Technicians are now in Seoul, but so far have not been able to identify the source of the problem. Fortunately the Bureau's backup Mode V circuit is reliable, and communicators can switch from one circuit to the other without delays.

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III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

Korean monitor [] returned from extended sick leave on 13 January. He suffers from a thyroid condition that required hospitalization. It appears that his condition has been properly diagnosed, and can be controlled by medication and diet.

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IV. VISITS

Korean monitor [] was in New York on private travel from 12-18 February to attend the 48th PEN (poets, essayists and novelists) International Congress. The Congress, which drew participants from around the world, was hosted by Norman Mailer, chairman of the PEN American Center. [] who writes poetry, attended as a member of the Korean PEN Center delegation.

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Chief, Seoul Bureau

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Attachment

Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Okinawa Bureau
Chief, Hong Kong Bureau

Seoul Bureau Production Report for January 1986

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	627170
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	165160
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1278

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	13685.00 min.	5510.00 min.	104.46 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

CHINA			
Beijing International service in Korean to Korea	5200		
Beijing City Service in Mandarin	2900		
Changchun Jilin Provincial Service in Mandarin	12720		
Harbin Heilongjiang Provincial Service in Mandarin	15570		
Hohhot Nei Monggol Regional Service in Mandarin	23900		
Jinan Shandong Provincial Service in Mandarin	15850		
Shenyang Liaoning Provincial Service in Mandarin	12350		
Shijiazhuang Hebei Provincial Service in Mandarin	8100		
Tianjin City Service in Mandarin	7150		
Beijing BEIJING RIBAO in Chinese			5950
Changchun JILIN RIBAO in Chinese			6420
Harbin HEILONGJIANG RIBAO in Chinese			11480
Hohhot NEIMENGGU RIBAO in Chinese			3650
Jinan DAZHONG RIBAO in Chinese			3800
Shenyang LIAONING RIBAO in Chinese			7850
Shijiazhuang HEBEI RIBAO in Chinese			27320

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BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
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Tianjin TIANJIN RIBAO in
Chinese

19500

CLANDESTINE

(Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in
Korean to South Korea

32720

KOREA (NORTH)

Pyongyang Domestic Service in
Korean

170330

Pyongyang Domestic Television Service in
Korean

0

Pyongyang KCNA in
English

119220

Pyongyang KULLOJA in
Korean

5400

KOREA (SOUTH)

Seoul Domestic Service in
Korean

3500

Seoul YONHAP in
English

32120

Seoul CHOSON ILBO in
Korean

3700

Seoul CHUANGANG ILBO in
Korean

500

Seoul HANGUK ILBO in
Korean

3050

Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in
Korean

1800

Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in
Korean

400

Seoul SINTONG-A in
Korean

0

Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in
English

33170

Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in
English

23450

Seoul TONG-A ILBO in
Korean

3150

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Moscow International Service in
Korean

4950